

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
FORT WORTH DIVISION

RONALD MICHAEL HILL

§

VS.

§

CIVIL ACTION NO. 4:12-CV-869-Y

§

WILLIAM STEPHENS,  
Director, T.D.C.J.  
Correctional Institutions Div.

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§

ORDER ADOPTING MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS and  
ORDER DENYING CERTIFICATE OF APPEALABILITY

Before the Court is the petition for writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 of petitioner Ronald Michael Hill, along with the September 24, 2013 findings, conclusions, and recommendation of the United States magistrate judge. The magistrate judge recommended the case be dismissed for lack of exhaustion, and he recommended that the motion filed by Hill be denied. The magistrate judge gave the parties until October 15 to file written objections to the findings, conclusions, and recommendation. As of the date of this order, no written objections have been filed.

The Court has reviewed the pleadings and the record in this case, and has reviewed for clear error the findings, conclusions and recommendation. The Court concludes that, for the reasons stated by the magistrate judge, the petition for writ of habeas corpus should be dismissed so Hill can complete exhaustion of his state court remedies.

Therefore, the findings, conclusions and recommendation of the magistrate judge are ADOPTED.

Respondent Abbott's March 28, 2013 motion to dismiss for lack of exhaustion (doc. 13), is GRANTED.

Ronald Michael Hill's April 15, 2013 motion for an evidentiary hearing (doc. 14), is DENIED.

Ronald Michael Hill's petition for writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 is DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE, except as to any application of the federal statute of limitations or other federal procedural bar that may apply.<sup>1</sup>

*Certificate of Appealability*

Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 22 provides that an appeal may not proceed unless a certificate of appealability (COA) is issued under 28 U.S.C. § 2253.<sup>2</sup> Rule 11 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Proceedings now requires that the Court "must issue or deny a certificate of appealability when it enters a final order adverse to the applicant."<sup>3</sup> The COA may issue "only if the applicant has made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right."<sup>4</sup> A petitioner satisfies this standard by showing "that jurists of reason could disagree with the district court's resolution of his constitutional claims or that jurists of reason could conclude the issues presented are adequate to deserve encouragement to proceed further."<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>A one-year statute of limitations is applicable to the filing of non-capital § 2254 habeas corpus petitions in federal court. See 28 U.S.C.A. § 2244(d)(1-4)(West 2006). The statute of limitations is tolled, however, while a properly filed application for state post-conviction or other collateral review is pending. 28 U.S.C.A. § 2244(d)(2)(West 2006).

<sup>2</sup>See Fed. R. App. P. 22(b).

<sup>3</sup>RULES GOVERNING SECTION 2254 PROCEEDINGS IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURTS, RULE 11(a) (December 1, 2009).

<sup>4</sup>28 U.S.C.A. § 2253(c)(2)(West 2006).

<sup>5</sup>*Miller-El v. Cockrell*, 537 U.S. 322, 326 (2003)(citing *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000)).

Upon review and consideration of the record in the above-referenced case as to whether petitioner Hill has made a showing that reasonable jurists would question this Court's rulings, the Court determines he has not and that a certificate of appealability should not issue for the reasons stated in the September 24, 2013 Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendation of the United States Magistrate Judge.<sup>6</sup>

Therefore, a certificate of appealability should not issue.

SIGNED October 24, 2013.

  
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TERRY R. MEANS  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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<sup>6</sup>See Fed. R. App. P. 22(b); see also 28 U.S.C.A. § 2253(c)(2) (West 2006).